

**Public Works and Engineering
Emergency Support Function #3
Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan**

LEAD AGENCY: Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT)

SUPPORTING AGENCIES: Corrections, Higher Education, Labor and Employment, Military and Veteran Affairs, Natural Resources, Public Health and Environment, Division of Emergency Management, Professional Associations, and Private Sector.

I PURPOSE

The purpose of ESF #3 is to provide for debris clearance, roads, highways and bridge repairs, engineering, construction, repair and restoration of essential public works systems and services, and the safety inspection of damaged buildings.

II SCOPE

- A. The scope of this annex is to describe the general response of CDOT and other supporting agencies in response to an emergency incident in Colorado.
- B. In the event of a an incident involving criminal or terrorist acts, responding personnel will work to preserve evidence and will fully coordinate all activities with the law enforcement officer on scene and the ERC who will be CDOT's liaison with the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
- C. Response activities will take place in the field, in or near the scene of the emergency; activities will be coordinated through the SEOC.
- D. CDOT has statewide, decentralized, operational multi-functional abilities and provides the citizens of Colorado with quick responses to transportation-related emergencies where expertise in highway and tunnel maintenance and in transportation engineering may be needed. These resources are fully equipped with highway maintenance and construction related equipment.

III SITUATION

A disaster may result from natural or technological hazards or from a National Security Emergency including acts of terrorism, that produces extensive damage and results in a large volume of requests to save lives, alleviate suffering and restore transportation corridors. When notified of an emergency situation by the Division of Emergency Management (DEM), CDOT will mobilize the necessary

available resources to meet demands. CDOT will respond directly and immediately to incidents on the State highway system as soon as notification is of the incident is received. CDOT maintains a current inventory of vehicles and will ensure that this inventory is at the ready for any required response.

IV PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

- A. Assistance may be needed to clear debris, perform damage assessment, structural evaluations, make emergency repairs to essential public facilities, reduce hazards by stabilizing or demolishing structures, and provide emergency water for human health needs.
- B. Access to the disaster area will be dependent upon the re-establishment of ground routes. In many locations debris clearance and emergency road repairs will be given top priority to support immediate life-saving emergency response activities.
- C. Rapid damage assessment of the disaster area will be required to determine potential workload.
- D. Emergency environmental and legal clearances will be needed for handling and storage/disposal of materials from debris clearance and demolition activities.
- E. Significant numbers of personnel with engineering and construction skills along with construction equipment and materials will be required from outside the disaster area.
- F. CDOT maintains a computer-based inventory of fleet equipment that could be utilized to manage corridors and clear debris as needed from affected roadways.
- G. CDOT has a plan for allocating essential highway capacity, regulating and maintaining sufficient highway capacity in support of the movement of critical goods and supplies. These procedures are documented in CDOT's Emergency Highway Transportation Regulations (EHTR) plan.

V CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. In response to an emergency, the local first responders and local CDOT maintenance personnel will assess the extent, type and severity of the disaster area. The status of transportation corridors will be determined. Responding equipment will contact the local incident commander on scene for instructions and clearance before proceeding to enter any affected area. CDOT's responding personnel are maintenance and

engineering personnel and are not trained or equipped to directly handle hazardous materials contaminated sites. They will work with trained personnel in areas deemed safe by the incident commander to clear debris in un-contaminated areas and will support those involved in direct handling of the hazardous materials contaminated debris.

- B. The CDOT Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) will be the ESF #3 lead when the State Emergency Operations Plan has been activated. The ESF #3 lead will be responsible for coordination of all state agencies providing support under ESF #3.
- C. In small magnitude emergencies, requests for assistance may be handled over the telephone. In larger magnitude events, the ESF #3 ERC will respond to the SEOC to coordinate a response from a centralized location. If a Presidential declaration is received, the ESF #3 lead will coordinate closely with the Federal ESF #3 lead.
- D. ESF #3 will maintain copies of all information to be compiled into a Master Log of the event.
- E. As the incident moves from the response phase to the recovery phase, many ESF activities will transition from the SEOC to a regional location (Joint Field Office).

VI. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Organization

- 1. ESF #3 activities are usually conducted in the field with overall coordination by the ESF #3 ERC. The organizational structure of the CDOT is described below.
- 2. A CDOT regional emergency disaster field office may be established if necessary near the disaster area at a CDOT regional, construction residency, or maintenance area office. This center will report directly to the ESF #3 at the SEOC.

B. Responsibilities - CDOT

- 1. Transportation Commission and Executive Director: Provides or redirects state or federal funding for transportation damage recovery, secure and obtain federal emergency replacement funding as may be available for infrastructure.
- 2. Chief Engineer or CDOT designated Emergency Response Coordinator: Directs Regional Transportation Directors and

Regional Maintenance Superintendents to allocate personnel, equipment, and other resources for the support of response activities in a statewide level. Works with the RTD and Maintenance Superintendents to create an expanded work force through emergency contracts as needed.

3. Regional Transportation Directors: Direct the transportation regions' allocation of resources, personnel, and other required support for the response activities. Maintain a communications network with local, city, and county officials within the region to provide a communication link to the ESF #3 Emergency Response Coordinator. Designate disaster field office and management of the field office. Manage coordination between CDOT's functional areas. Manage CDOT regional emergency response office.
4. Region Maintenance Section Superintendent: Directs and manages the first responders. Evaluates availability and commits the personnel, material, supplies, and equipment that can be provided to respond. Provides communication networks through vehicle-based radios. Provides personnel for 24-hour coverage as needed.
5. Traffic Operations Center: Provides 24-hour transportation system information including road closures, detours, delays, alternate routes, etc. Controls Variable Message Signs at key locations along transportation corridors.
6. Staff Bridge: Provides structure damage assessment, structure flow capabilities, structure repair recommendations, and weight restrictions on bridges.
7. Maintenance and Operations Branch: State Maintenance Superintendent is the designated Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC). Provides 24-hour coverage of the SEOC when activated. Provides for backup support for the ERC and support for the Field Operations Team as needed.
8. Project Development Branch: Provides engineering personnel for damage assessment teams, repair recommendations and accounting management of emergency force account work.

C. Responsibilities – Supporting Agencies

1. Provide personnel necessary to support ESF #3

2. Identify staff that will be prepared to act as a representative on a Field Operations Team.
3. Designate an Emergency Response Coordinator.

VII. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The ESF #1 will work with the State logistics section for the procurement of resources CDOT does not have, who will report such finances directly to the Finance Section of the SEOC. CDOT will report financial matters related to existing resources procured during the event to the Finance Section of the SEOC. During a response, CDOT will record and track its own expenditures and seek reimbursement from the appropriate resource after the event.

All requests for resources given the ESF #3 will be processed in accordance with CDOT policy and protocols established by the SEOC.

Other Support Agencies

The CDOT Coordinating Office shall encourage all supporting agencies to establish effective financial disaster response systems internally and share with them all directives received from the Division of Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or other sources.